

THE BOOK OF ACTS | GOD'S REVELATION OF TRANSITION

SESSION 13: ACTS 3:22-4:4

ACTS 3:12-26 | PETER'S SECOND SERMON

- Verses 12-17 included on session 11
- Verse 18-21 included on session 12
- Verse 22 –
 - Moses is referred to 19 times in the book of Acts, 12 times before Paul and 7 times after Paul.
 - This particular quote from Moses is found in Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19.
 - By saying **Moses truly said** Peter rebukes modern theologian who deny the Mosaic authorship of Deuteronomy.
 - Peter also declares that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Moses, thus Christ is the **prophet** whom God would **raise up unto you of your brethren** (clearly a reference to Jesus' Jewish nature).
 - The Deuteronomy passage adds the words of God, who says He will **put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him** (Deut. 18:18), words echoed by Jesus in John 8:28.
- Verse 23 –
 - This prophecy, from Deuteronomy 18:19, speaks of the destruction of those who reject the coming Messiah.
 - The "words of doom" in the Gospels and Jewish epistles are all given in this light, such as Mark 16:16 (which makes much more sense in terms of the promised national salvation or the "cutting off" from the nation to those who reject the Messiah), Hebrews 2:3, 12:25-26, etc.
- Verse 24 –
 - This is clear evidence that the church, which was a mystery and hidden in God, could not have started in Acts 2, since the activity of Acts 2-3 was **foretold**.
 - What was foretold? **these days**, thus it cannot be the church.
- Verse 25 –
 - This is undeniably spoken only to the Jewish people. It is the Jews who are **the children of the prophets, and of the covenant**.
 - At this time, the Gentiles are still **strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope** (Eph. 2:12).
 - The covenant being spoken of is Genesis 12:3, **all the kindreds of the earth will be blessed**.
- Verse 26 –
 - The Jewish people had the first opportunity to accept Jesus as the Christ. When they rejected Him, Christ forgave them and gave them another opportunity. The Jewish nation is now in this opportunity.
 - This verse gives a great example of the "Ye+Plural" and "Ye+Singular" rule.
 - A "Ye+Plural" is a references to individuals within a larger group, while "Ye+Singular" is a reference to the group as a whole.
 - Here, Jesus was sent to **bless you**, which is a "Ye+Singular," thus, "to bless the nation," but the national blessing was **turning away every one of you from his iniquities**, where there is a "Ye+Plural" (you...iniquities).
 - Note that *you* is the direct object form of *ye*.

- This is as far as Peter was able to go in the sermon, which will be interrupted in the next verse.

ACTS 4:1-4 | FIVE-THOUSAND BELIEVERS

- Verses 1-2 -
 - The sermon was not completed, but interrupted by **the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees**.
 - The **captain of the temple** is not known by name, but the reference to such a position goes back to Jeremiah 20:1. Luke 22:4 speaks of **captains** (plural).
 - The **Sadducees** (from *Zadok*, but not the famous priest of the Hebrew Scriptures, but a post-Babylonian religio-political figure) were in many ways religious opposites of Pharisees (see Acts 23:7), and were adamantly opposed to the idea of resurrection (see Lk. 20:27).
 - These leaders were **grieved** that Peter and John **preached...the resurrection from the dead**.
 - Since the sermon of Acts 3 only mentioned the resurrection in passing (Acts 3:15, and questionably Acts 3:26-which is likely a more general **raised** than the resurrection from the dead, as in v. 22), Luke was careful to say that the grief was **that they taught the people**, that is, that *anyone who held such a belief should be teaching anything*.
 - This should serve as a reminder that sometimes ideology clouds thinking to the point that we cannot see beyond it (even if a nearly 40 year old man is healed from a problem he has carried all his life).
- Verse 3 –
 - The leadership **laid hands on them** (i.e.: *arrested them*) and put them into the prison for the night, **for it was now eventide**.
 - The compound archaic word **eventide** is from *even* (short for *evening*) and *tide* (a specific point of time (like *yuletide*)).
- Verse 4 –
 - The belief was that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah, for this was **the word** (and the only word) which has been preached thus far in Acts.
 - Note that there has been *nothing* about trusting the completed work of Christ on the cross.
 - It would go beyond what this verse says to make these believers into men who had placed their faith in Jesus for "personal, by-grace, die-and-go-to-heaven" kind of salvation.
 - It appears that the **total number of the men was about five thousand** rather than 5,000 new believers.